

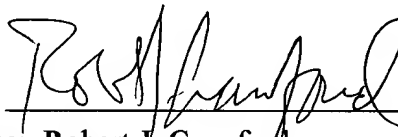
21, 1999 (incorporated herein), support for the presently claimed invention is February 19, 1992.

To stand as prior art under § 102(b), the Iwasaki reference would have had to have been published not later than February 18, 1991. Moreover, if needed, a § 1.131 declaration would readily establish that the claimed invention predates the publication date of the Iwasaki reference.

In view of the above, the Applicant respectfully requests that the present application is now in a condition for allowance. A favorable response is earnestly requested. Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the Firm's *new* phone number: 651/686-6633.

A change of correspondence, which was previously submitted, requests that future correspondence be mailed to the undersigned at the Firm's *new* address, noted below.

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